THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

News-item regarding TU's bargaining right affected by Globalisation ILO

570. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "TU's bargaining right affected by globalisation: ILO" which appeared in 'Economic Times' (New Delhi) dated 8th June, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The International Labour Conference in June, 2000 considered the first Global Report based on the follow up of the ILO Declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work. The report entitled 'Your voice at Work' was on the Principle governing freedom of association and collective bargaining. The right to freedom of association and collective bargaining envisaged under ILO Convention Nos. 87 and 98 are by and large available to workers in India. However, the relevant Conventions could not be ratified by India so far because of reasonable restrictions imposed on government servants.

Less Interest on ESIC Funds

571. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ESIC would be getting less interest on their funds due to new Government policies;

(b) what was the background behind the reduction in interest

rates for the funds held for labour welfare like the ESIC and Provident Fund;

(c) whether any effort is being made to review this situation;

(d) the details thereof;

(e) what would be the impact on welfare schemes due to lesser interest rates in future; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The surplus ESI Fund is required to be invested as per provisions of Rule 27 of the ESI (Central) Rules, 1950. Similarly, the EPF money is required to be invested as per the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, the funds invested by the ESIC and EPFO have been earning interest, as made available under various instruments of the public sector banks/public financial institutions from time to time. The benefits payable under the ESI scheme, the Employees' Pension Scheme and the EDLI Scheme are based on formula prescribed under the respective Schemes and as such reduction in rate of interest is unlikely to have any serious impact on their disbursement. However, the ESIC and the EPFO are monitoring the situation in view of general reduction in interest rates and will take appropriate steps to augment their resources as and when necessary so as to ensure continuity of payment of benefits as provided under the rules/schemes.

Wage Revision in Public Enterprises

572. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Public Sector Enterprises where the wage revision is due since January, 1997 and before; and

(b) what is Government decision on the question of new wage revision settlements in the Enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF